

May 14, 2015

Senator Volk, Representative Herbig, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development:

My name is....My name is Avery Olmstead and I live in Old Town Maine. I use a wheel chair due to cerebral palsy. I have spoken in person and through written testimony on the issue of subminimum wage many times. I would argue in favor of supporting L.D. 1240: "An Act to Phase out the Payment of Subminimum Wages to Workers with Disabilities".

For me, what it comes down to is respect. If this bill is passed, I truly believe that we will be sending a signal to the citizens of Maine and around the country that all people have value regardless of their ability or disability and that everyone is deserving of a livable wage. I am excited for the opportunity that this bill offers and I am proud that Maine will become one of the states that encourages employment first and prohibits subminimum wage.

Thank you

Avery Olmstead